

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict., cap. 63).

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## R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON THE

BURIAL-GROUNDS AND NEW CEMETERY

AT

LEICESTER.

BY WILLIAM RANGER, ESQ.,  
SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



L O N D O N :

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## NOTIFICATION.

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THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 10th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 5th day of May next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board, with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on the Burial-grounds and new Cemetery at LEICESTER ; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

HENRY AUSTIN, *Secretary.*

*Whitehall,*

*25th March, 1850.*



## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 VICT., Cap. 63).

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*Report to the General Board of Health on the Burial-Grounds and New Cemetery at Leicester.* By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,  
Superintending Inspector.

*Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East,  
London, Nov. 21, 1850.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

A MEMORIAL was laid before you from the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Leicester, by the council of the said borough, being the local board of health, made at a meeting held on the 24th day of September, 1850, showing

“ That the burial-grounds within this borough are in a very crowded state, and are situated in the midst of densely-populated neighbourhoods.’

“ That the Council of the borough have, at great expense, established a general cemetery for the interment of the dead within the borough, under the provisions of the Leicester Cemetery Act, 1848, and with a view to put an end to the highly objectionable practice of intramural interment.

“ That the cemetery is now fit for use, and that one-half thereof has been consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough.

“ That under the powers of the said Cemetery Act the Council propose, with the approval of the Board of Health, to make an order for suspending the interment of the dead within all the burial-grounds of this borough, except in vaults and brick graves, for twenty years from the 9th day of November next, or such other early day as may be named in such order.

“ Your memorialists therefore respectfully request the approval of the General Board of Health to such order being made; and if the General Board are of opinion that an inquiry and report by a superintending inspector are necessary, that they will be pleased to institute such inquiry with as little delay as possible.

“ THOMAS NUNNELEY, Mayor.”

In obedience to the orders of the Board to that effect, dated October 10, 1850, I caused notices to be issued, of which the following is a copy:—

“ *Public Health Act, 1848:* 11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.

“ Whereas, in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1848, upon the representation of the local board of health for the borough of Leicester, in the county of Leicester, that all the burial-grounds within the said  
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borough of Leicester are in such a state as to be dangerous to the health of persons living in the neighbourhood thereof, the General Board of Health have directed Wm. Ranger, Esq., one of the Superintending-Inspectors appointed for the purposes of the said Act, to visit the said borough of Leicester, and there to make public inquiry and examine witnesses with respect to the state of the said burial-grounds :

“ Now therefore I, the said Wm. Ranger, do hereby give notice, that on the 30th inst. now next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Town-hall, I shall proceed upon the said inquiry, and that I shall then and there be prepared to hear all persons desirous of being heard before me upon the subject of the said inquiry.

“ WM. RANGER.

“ Dated this 9th day of October, 1850.”

I have now the honour of laying before you the following Report on the preliminary inquiry relative to the various matters set forth in the above notice. The meeting was held in the Town-hall of Leicester, on the 30th and 31st of October, 1850, and was attended by Thomas Nunneley, Esq., the mayor ; Samuel Stone, Esq., town clerk, and clerk to the Leicester New Cemetery ; T. Buck, Esq., the officer of health, and several other gentlemen. A deputation from the board of guardians attended in the evening.

**EXISTING BURIAL-GROUNDS.**—Previous to the formation of the new cemetery, the burial-grounds in Leicester consisted of those attached to the 7 churches and 17 dissenting chapels of the borough. St. Mary's and St. Margaret's had burial-grounds belonging to them at, and probably anterior to, the Norman Conquest ; so that bodies have been deposited there for at least 800 years ; whilst the graveyards of All Saints, St. Martin's, and St. Nicholas, have been in use since the end of the twelfth century, or for about 650 years. St. Leonard's and St. George's have been built subsequently ; the former at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and the latter in 1827.

The total extent of the whole of the churchyards is about 7 acres : there are burial-grounds attached to 17 dissenting chapels, but the united area of these is under 2 acres.

The population of Leicester is supposed to have varied from 3000 to 5000 between 1066 and 1600 ; in 1712 it was 6450 ; in 1841, 51,000 ; and at the present time it is supposed to exceed 60,000. The whole of the dissenting burial-grounds have been laid out at a comparatively recent period, so that, with the exception of perhaps 4 acres, the town has no more space for the interment of its dead than it possessed when the population was one-sixth of its present amount.

The following is a list of the total area and number of burials that have taken place in each graveyard, as far as the existing records give any information on the subject. St.



Margaret's churchyard contains 9223 square yards; the number of burials, from the commencement of the register in 1615 to the present time, is 26,391. St. George's churchyard contains 9047 square yards; by the register the number of burials from 1827, when the church was opened, to the present time, is 4261. St. Mary's churchyard contains 4729 square yards; the register begins in 1608; the total number of burials from that to the present time is, according to it, 18,655. The area of All Saints churchyard is 3373 square yards; the register begins in 1571; the burials from that to the present time amount to 12,599. The churchyard of St. Martin's contains 3043 square yards; the register commences in the latter part of 1558, and gives a total of 16,052 burials from 1551 to October, 1850. The churchyard of St. Nicholas contains 2451 square yards; its register, which commences in 1567, gives, up to the present time, a total of 4818 burials. The churchyard of St. Leonard's contains 1551 square yards; according to the register, which begins in 1730, the number of burials, up to the present time, is 918.

With regard to the dissenting chapels, no registers had in some instances been kept, and in others those which were furnished were too imperfect to admit of any accurate calculation being made from them; the following list gives the area of the burial-ground attached to each of the 17 chapels:—

**BURIAL GROUNDS.—**

	Sq. Yards.
Primitive Methodists' Chapel, Alexander-street	116
Primitive Methodists' Chapel, George-street	122
Association Methodists, Hill-street.	590
General Baptists, Archdeacon-lane.	415
Vine-street	665
Dover-street	363
Carly-street	135
Friar-lane	65
Particular Baptists, Harvey-lane	667
Upper Charles-street	423
St. Peter's-lane	225
Independent Chapel, Bond-street	990
Gallowtree-gate	1,147
Unitarian Chapel, East Bond-street	1,822
Providence Chapel, Newark-street	223
Roman Catholic Chapel, Wellington-road	347
Society of Friends, Friars-road	535
	<hr/>
	8,850

The following table shows the number of layers of dead bodies in the seven churchyards: the calculations for the purpose are made from the number of burials shown by the parish registers. That the number of burials which have actually

taken place is much greater there can be no doubt. The earliest of the Leicester registers is that of St. Martin's, which begins in 1558, or about 450 years after the first consecration of the church. The two most ancient churches in the borough are those of St. Mary's and St. Margaret's, and their registers do not begin till 1608 and 1615, or about 550 years after the Norman Conquest, when the yards of both those churches were probably used as places of interment.

#### CHURCHYARDS at LEICESTER.

—	No. of Burials.	Area.	Burials in each Layer.	No. of Layers.
St. Nicholas' . . .	4,818	22,059	612	7·8
St. Leonard's . . .	918	13,959	387	2·3
St. Martin's . . .	16,052	27,387	760	21·1
St. Mary's . . .	18,655	42,561	1,182	15·7
St. Margaret's . . .	26,393	83,007	2,305	11·4
All Saints . . .	12,599	30,357	843	14·9
St. George's . . .	4,261	81,423	2,261	1·8

In addition to the interments in the burial-grounds, vaults or brick graves are allowed in all the churches, with the exception of St. George's, and in the greater part of the dissenting chapels.

Mr. Flint, surveyor, furnished the following account of the unoccupied ground in the graveyards attached to the various churches and chapels. In every case the extent of vacant ground given is exclusive of the space occupied by buildings, fences, or causeways. There is no unoccupied ground at St. Martin's, St. Mary's, or All Saints; St. Margaret's has 160 yards, St. Nicholas' 120, St. Leonard's 750, and St. George's 240, being in all 1270 yards of spare ground; or, exclusive of that at St. Leonard's, only 520 square yards. The vacant spaces in the burial-grounds attached to the different dissenting chapels are as follows:—The Primitive Methodists have 29 yards of unoccupied ground in their burial-place in Alexander-street, and 100 in that in George-street. The Association Methodists possess 300 square yards of space in the Hill-street burying-ground. The General Baptists have 100 yards of unoccupied space in Archdeacon-lane, 530 in Vine-street, and 70 in Carly-street. The Particular Baptists have 60 yards of spare ground in Upper Charles-street. The Independents have 100 yards of clear space in the Bond-street, and 300 in the Gallowtree-gate burial-grounds. The Unitarians have 550 yards of vacant space in East Bond-street. The Society of Friends have 270 yards of space unoccupied in their ground in Friars-road; and the burial-place attached to Providence Chapel, Newark-street, has 200 yards of ground which has not



been used for purposes of interment. The total amount of unoccupied space in the dissenting burial-grounds is, therefore, 2609 square yards.

Mr. Flint explained that in making his estimate, whether the various burial-grounds were full or not, he had assumed that where there were mounds the ground was filled, and when he came to an area of 6 feet by 4, free from any, he reckoned it as unoccupied ground.

The following evidence was given during the time I held the inquiry on the new cemetery. I have arranged it under its several heads: 1st, that of a general kind; 2nd, the particulars relative to the various burial-grounds; and 3rd, the information I received about the new cemetery.

*Thomas Nunneley*, Esq., the present mayor of Leicester, said,—

“that his acquaintance with Dissenters induced him to believe that they were favourable to the closing of the burial-places attached to their chapels, provided the right to bury in their brick graves were still reserved to them; of course, the power of doing so rested in the hands of the chapel trustees, and he was not able to answer positively whether they would agree to do so in all cases. In his opinion, however, he considered that, rather than not have the burial-grounds closed, it would be preferable to carry out the order without any reservation.”

Mr. *Thompson* stated,—

“that at the time of the Norman Conquest there were two churches in Leicester, viz. St. Mary’s and St. Margaret’s, the burial-grounds of which are still open as places of interment, so that they have been in use for at least 800 years. At the latter end of the twelfth century, the churches of All Saints, St. Martin, and St. Nicholas were built and burial-grounds added to them, and these also have continued in use to the present day.”

Mr. *Wm. Hardy*, who is a member of the sub-committee, stated,—

“that the present provisions for interment are the same as they were when the population of the town was one half of what it is now. The only additional cemetery accommodation afforded during the last thirty years has been by the addition of the burial-ground of St. George’s, which occupies a space of 9047 yards. There is a general impression in Leicester that all the churchyards, with the exception of the one last mentioned, have become too much crowded within the last seven years. When a brick grave is made, they are obliged first to clear it of water by pumping. In case the undertakers will not make such allowances as to prevent any additional expense being incurred on account of the distance of the new cemetery from Leicester, the Town Council intend to provide accommodation for the removal of dead bodies; but, if possible, it is thought preferable that the matter should be left open to private enterprise. A mortuary chamber has been provided at the new cemetery.”

*St. Margaret's Churchyard.*—*John Buck*, Esq., the officer of health for Leicester, stated, —

“ that during the last year several of his patients, who lived on the north side of St. Margaret's churchyard, were attacked by malignant typhus, and that at the date of the inquiry fever was still prevalent in that quarter. Much of the disease was no doubt attributable to the state of the houses in which the persons who suffered resided ; but he was of opinion that many disorders of the zymotic class were also influenced by the condition of the burial-ground.”

*Mr. Wm. Roxby*, parish clerk, handed in a paper stating,—

“ that the number of burials at St. Margaret's from January 1st to October 31st, 1850, was 282 ; nearly one half of these were under five years of age, and this proportion of infantile mortality has been very nearly the same for several years back.”

*Chas. Barrow*, who gave his evidence in a very loose and ambiguous manner, said,—

“ that he was gravedigger at St. Margaret's ; and that on the 19th of October last he made three graves, and in doing so *only* threw up one skull, and parts of the thigh, rib, and arm bones. One of the graves was that of Mr. Holland.”

*Robert Stringer* stated,—

“ that he has been sexton of St. Margaret's for 23, and has dug the burial-ground for 8 years. The parish graves are made 5 feet deep, but there is never more than one body put in a grave. He has dug one as deep as 11 feet (though this is not the general custom) without finding any water. In the old ground the upper soil is loose, then black mould is met with to a depth of 5 feet at the south and west end of the ground, and afterwards sand and gravel for 6 feet further. In the new ground the upper soil and the sand and gravel are the same as in the old one, but there is not more than 2 feet of black mould. The old churchyard was drained in 1814 ; the new ground was consecrated in 1815. They are now burying in the ground which was filled in 1800 to within 4 feet of the surface. Elm coffins are generally used ; a body will waste in 9 years in an elm, and in 16 in an oak coffin.”

*George Holmes*, builder, stated,—

“ that his house, which is his own property, is situated on the opposite side of the road which passes St. Margaret's churchyard, from which he has never experienced any inconvenience. About four years ago he made a vault in the church into which the water flowed, and he then experienced a very unpleasant smell.”

*Mr. W. Lewin* stated,—

“ that he had resided in Church-gate, near St. Margaret's burial-ground, ever since 1819, and that he had made the repairs of the church since 1820. His family and himself generally attended the church. He was in the habit of meditating among the tombs, particularly on Sundays, and had often looked into the open graves and seen

fragments of bones in them. He had never found any bad effects from St. Margaret's churchyard. It was the general practice to make brick boxes, and not brick graves. The property round the Unitarian burial-ground belonged to him."

*J. Weston* said,—

"that he had resided for 20½ years in a family house situated in Church-lane, opposite St. Margaret's vicarage. He considered the air in and around the church highly salubrious. He drew this conclusion from the great age attained by some of the persons in the neighbourhood."

*J. Spencer*

"has resided near St. Margaret's church all his life; he frequently goes into the churchyard, and has never seen anything offensive. The soil is very dry. The graves that he has seen made are from 5 to 9 feet deep. He has lost six children from two months to two years of age; his wife, however, was a consumptive woman. He has only one daughter. He is occasionally unwell, and seized with lumbago and pains in the chest. He may sometimes be on the sick list for 10 days, never so long as 14 days at one time. His house contains five rooms; he himself works in the kitchen."

*St. George's Churchyard.*—*Serjeant Wright*

"attended a funeral at St. George's within the last 18 months, and saw water in the grave. He was in the churchyard in November, 1849, when the body of an adult was being raised for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of death. The grave from which the coffin was taken was about 6 feet deep. A few minutes after the removal of the body, the water rose in the grave to a height of 2 feet."

*Marshall Franks*, shoemaker, resides close to St. George's churchyard. He said,—

"he had experienced on one occasion a bad smell from a grave. He had lived in the house where he now resides since last March; he now occupies two rooms at 1s. 9d. a-week; before he had three rooms, for which he paid 1s. 10d. a week. Four graves have been made under the wall, all of which are very wet."

*Robert Cross*

"resides near St. George's churchyard, where five of his family lie buried. The ground is exceedingly wet. He attended a funeral about nine months ago, and during the reading of the service in the churchyard he observed water flowing into the grave, which appeared to be about 5 feet deep."

*St. Mary's Church.*—*Mr. May*, a medical practitioner, stated,—

"that he resided opposite St. Mary's Church. As a medical man, he was liable to be frequently called up at night, and he then found an unpleasant smell, which he had no doubt arose from the decomposition of animal matter in the churchyard. At the time of the inquiry he had private cases under treatment for fever in the neighbourhood of burial-grounds."

Mr. *Thomas Ross*, who has been parish clerk of St. Mary's for the last six years, mentioned,—

“that he had seen a great many bones turned up in the churchyard.”

*Geo. Harrison* is the officiating sexton of St. Mary's,—

“He digs common graves 6 feet deep. There is a layer of black soil for 8 feet, after which he gets to the gravel.”

Mr. *Underwood*, who resides near St. Mary's churchyard, stated,—

“that his garden, which is almost 50 yards from his house, abuts on the churchyard. The ground near his garden wall had been raised within the last six years. He had frequently been in the churchyard at the time graves were being opened, when he had seen bones taken up and put out of sight. He considered, from his own observation, that the ground was full. He did not think the sexton could dig more than 3 or 4 feet from the surface without meeting with coffins. The soil at the above depth becomes black, and, in his opinion, is composed principally of human remains.”

The Rev. *Wm. Vaughan*, incumbent of St. Martin's, begged it to be distinctly understood that

“he considered the burial-ground was not in the state which he could wish, nor was its condition such that interments should continue in it. He had resided in the churchyard for the last five years and a half, and found he was unable to get on without medical assistance.”

*T. Martin*

“used to dig the ground at St. Martin's, until the last 18 months. There is a black soil to the depth of about 8 feet, and then gravel.”

Mr. *May*, the gentleman who spoke of the state of St. Mary's churchyard, also stated,—

“that fever was generally prevalent in the neighbourhood of St. Nicholas' churchyard, and that during the summer months of 1846 several deaths had taken place from dysentery and diarrhoea, which prevailed in the houses immediately surrounding the ground. During last year the houses on the north side of the churchyard were the seat of dysentery.”

Mr. *Langton*, clerk and sexton of St. Nicholas, said,—

“that there was plenty of room in the churchyard, and he was of opinion that, if there had been any infection, he should have fallen a victim to it, as he always stands on the edge of the grave whilst the coffin is being lowered into it.”

Before giving the evidence on the new cemetery I may remark that no information was given by, or any claims made on behalf of, those families who have purchased the right of interment in private vaults or graves. A general feeling is understood to prevail amongst the clergy in favour of closing the present burial-grounds.



*New Cemetery.*—As far back as 1843 the evil effects of the present mode of interment in Leicester were generally felt, and the proper principles to be observed for the future were fully set forth. The result of this feeling was the formation of a company for the establishment of a cemetery for the use of dissenters exclusively. As, however, the clergy and the most influential persons in Leicester were all equally anxious for increased burial accommodation, the proposed company was not formed, but a new one got up in its stead to provide a cemetery for the use of persons of all religious denominations. A warrant was issued by the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests, ordering a preliminary inquiry to be held on the proposed bill for the establishment of the new cemetery. The inquiry was accordingly opened at the Town-hall of Leicester on the 4th of February, 1848. Amongst other evidence that I have taken from the published report on this investigation, I have extracted that of *Thomas Macauley, Esq.*, who stated,—

“ I do not put the question of the establishment of a new cemetery on the score of health, so much as on that of decency and propriety, and a proper respectful feeling for the dead. I do not consider nine years is a sufficient time for a body to remain undisturbed.”

Mr. Macauley was not disposed to attribute any great deterioration of the public health to the presence of graveyards in a town unless they are very much crowded. He had turned his attention to this subject in Leicester of late years, and he had frequently considered the point in his practice in the neighbourhood of graveyards, but he could not say that he had on any occasion distinguished illness which, in his judgment, could be attributed fairly to the decomposition of animal matter. In the neighbourhood of several of the churches, in the lower part of the parish of St. Margaret's in particular, near and about the church, a fever prevailed some few years ago which lingered in the neighbourhood a considerable time; it was very obstinate, and spread along the street at the back of the church. But a fever of the same kind, almost if not quite as obstinate, was prevailing in other parts of the town, and he did not attribute that epidemic to the state of St. Margaret's churchyard, although some persons were disposed to do so. He thought it arose more from other circumstances—from the defective state of the drainage, from the flatness of the ground there, and its proximity to the river; and, indeed, all the epidemics that he had seen in Leicester during the last 21 years had certainly been very much attributable to, if not increased by, the bad drainage of the town. He was, however, most anxious for the formation of a new cemetery, for the following reasons:—from the present over-crowded state of the churchyards, and the steadily increasing population of the town, rendering them most inade-

quate for the purpose, and from the conviction that both the health, the feelings, and the morals of the people, would be better served by increasing the accommodation for burials and doing away with the necessity of too frequently disturbing the ground.

In referring to the return made in 1843, as to the then condition of the burial-ground of St. Margaret's church, when there were almost 3000 square yards of unoccupied ground, Mr. Macauley stated,—

“that the population has very largely increased since 1843, particularly in the parish of St. Margaret, where the greatest extension had taken place; as to whether one-third of the ground was unoccupied in 1843, that depended upon what was considered unoccupied. I consider St. Margaret's burial-ground at the present time is much too crowded to be fit for the health of the town.”

St. Martin's and St. Mary's were both, in Mr. Macauley's opinion, much over-crowded and totally inadequate for the purpose of interment. He remembered Leicester having about 17,000 inhabitants, whereas it now contains 56,000. With the exception of St. George's churchyard, and some small burying-grounds belonging to dissenting chapels, the burial-grounds are much the same as they were several years ago. He was quite sure there were not two opinions in the town on the subject of interment, he was confident there were not; he had never met with anybody of a different opinion. Mr. Macauley added,—

“The ground is too much crowded; and the only point to decide upon is, as to the best mode of increasing the accommodation for burials. All parties, both political and religious, were anxious to carry out this matter. He was a member of the Church of England, and he was enabled to say that the opinions he expressed were those of the clergy also.”

*Wm. Biggs, Esq.*, in his evidence before the Surveying-officer, stated,—

“that he had seen cemeteries in America, France, Germany, and Ireland; and on the ground of public feeling, taste, and morals, he thought the establishment of the new cemetery at Leicester highly desirable. When established, it would most likely become a general place of resort to the inhabitants, according to the practice in cemeteries abroad, as the site was so superior. He had visited many cemeteries abroad, but he had never visited one with so fine a site as this at Leicester. It commanded a view of the valley of the Soar, and of the distant hills of Charnwood Forest. It was on a slope, and commanded one of the grandest views he knew of, not only in the midland counties, but in England. Leicester was in want of such a place of resort; he knew of none except the roads. There was the new walk, and the corporation had lately set aside two fields to allow the people to play cricket in—that was all.”



The following evidence on the new cemetery was given me during the time I held the inquiry at Leicester.

Mr. *Stone*, town clerk of the borough, gave the following particulars connected with its formation :—

“ In the first instance, a private cemetery was registered and established, with the object of making a place of interment for the various bodies of dissenters exclusively, in Leicester; after its first formation the Town Council and others thought it desirable to have a public cemetery for both churchmen and dissenters. A bill was then promoted by all parties, and a committee-list of gentlemen formed, one half of whom were members of the Church of England, and the other half dissenters. The existing cemetery has been formed at the risk of the Corporation. Its present extent is 17 acres, the Commissioners having power to extend it when necessary 12 more, making in all 29 acres. The ground is worth about 350*l.* per acre. No professional person was consulted for his advice when the present site was selected and decided on. No arrangement has been made for an ultimate redemption of the capital expended, but the object of the Council has been to raise the interest upon it from the sale of freehold graves to persons whose means enable them to purchase, and so lighten the charges of interment to the poor. The cost of making the walls, lodges, and buildings, as well as other expenses, was about 12,000*l.* The particulars of the outlay are as follows, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.
Chapels, with connecting cloisters, entrance lodges and gates, directors' room, tool-houses, excavations, and under-drainage . . . . .	8,369	15	8
Reception-house . . . . .	225	0	0
Forming and laying out, turfing, making walks, roads, &c. &c. . . . .	1,427	0	4
Furniture for chapel, directors' room, and lodge . . . . .	114	6	4
Plants . . . . .	91	0	6
Salary of the clerk of works . . . . .	783	10	9
Cost of obtaining the Act, including its preliminary expenses . . . . .	1,400	19	2
	<hr/>		
	£12,411	12	9

Mr. *Flint* stated,—

“ that his original estimate of the cost of laying out the 16 acres which at present form the limits of the cemetery was 6700*l.*, or 10,000*l.* for the whole of the 28 acres. He calculated the items of the cost as follows, viz.—

	£.
Fencing . . . . .	3,400
Walling and draining . . . . .	1,600
Forming and planting ground . . . . .	600
Two chapels . . . . .	2,700
Lodge and cottages . . . . .	900
Tunnel . . . . .	400
Incidentals . . . . .	400
	<hr/>
	£10,000

From Mr. Stone's evidence, however, it appears that the smaller portion of the cemetery alone has cost more than the whole 28 acres were expected to have amounted to.

With regard to the employment of a person for laying out the ground, Mr. *Stone* stated before the surveying officer—

“that it was their intention to have had a person conversant with ornamental decoration and planting, and that Mr. Paxton, the Duke of Devonshire's head-gardener, who had laid out the Coventry cemetery, had been suggested.”

The reason why Mr. Paxton was not employed does not appear. I may remark, however, that the cost of the Coventry cemetery, exclusive of the money spent in buying the site and obtaining the Act of Parliament, amounted to about 500*l.* per acre, whilst that of Leicester appears to have been 648*l.* per acre.

Mr. *Whetstone*, stated,—

“that the ground was drained by means of 3-inch pipes placed 13 feet below the surface. There is a bye-law providing that no grave is to exceed 11½ feet in depth.”

The Rev. *W. H. Neligan*, M.A., curate of St. Margaret's, said,—

“that some means should be found for conveying bodies to the dead-house, and that a cheap mode should be devised for carrying the coffins of the poor to the new cemetery, as, in consequence of its distance from the town, two sets of bearers would have to be provided instead of one, which is all that is now required.”

The Rev. *Wm. Vaughan*, incumbent of St. Martin's, also urged the same thing, and said,—

“that if the present burial-grounds were closed, and the new cemetery only allowed as a place of interment, bodies would have to be carried in some instances from 1½ to 1¾ miles; this increased distance would add considerably to the cost of the funerals of the poor, and he considered it very desirable that some arrangement should be made to prevent this addition to what was generally a very serious charge upon the poorer classes.”

The Surveying-Officer, in his remarks on the nature and general tendency of the evidence laid before him on the condition of the existing burial-grounds, remarks,—

“that the evidence does not show any specific detriment to the health of the town, either as regards any particular burying-ground, or from the whole of them combined. Whatever weight is to be attached to the question of health as a ground for establishing this cemetery must depend upon the general consideration arising out of the fact that for a population of 56,000 the space for burial-grounds, more or less surrounded by houses, is less than 9 acres, the whole of which, with the exception of 4 acres, has been used from time immemorial, and of which not more than 1 acre is new ground. I may add that, except

under the new church of St. George's, the practice of burial under churches seems to have been, and still is, general."

I would observe on the above extract that the miasma arising from churchyards is in general too much diluted by the surrounding air to smite the persons living in their neighbourhood with sudden or severe disease, but it may still be sufficiently powerful to prove materially injurious to health. The testimony of the Rev. Mr. Vaughan as to the effect produced on his health by residing in St. Martin's churchyard seems to be decisive on this point. There are many ways of accounting for the witnesses, who have given evidence, not having suffered in their health, but this does not prove that deleterious influences might not still be in existence. Dr. Playfair has stated,—

"I consider the want of attention to the circumstances of the concentration of decaying emanations is one great reason why it is still a *questio vexata*,—what are the effects of miasmata in producing fever? There may be many churchyards and sewers evolving decaying matter, and yet no fever may occur in the locality. Some other more modified effect, such as dysentery or diarrhœa, may be produced, according to the degree of concentration of the decaying matter; or there may be no perceptible effect produced, although the blood may still be thrown into a diseased state, which will render it susceptible of any specific contagion that approaches. It is to be remembered that decaying exhalations will not always produce similar effects, but that these will vary, not only according to the concentration, but also according to the state of decomposition in which the decaying matters are."

The circumstance of little or no complaint being made by the persons who gave evidence of the escape of deleterious miasma may possibly be attributable to the fact of the surface of most of the burial-grounds being covered with a thick grass, which has a tendency to produce a powerful purifying influence when the emanations are moderate; this would go far to prevent the escape of deleterious miasma. In Leicester the effects of an invisible fluid seem to have been observed in only one instance. This circumstance may, I think, be readily explained when the facts stated by Mr. Macauley, as well as a complication of other circumstances, are duly taken into account. The sense of smell is unable to perceive the excessive escape of miasma, or is at least unable to detect it as an antecedent to disease. But it is certain that dead bodies decay and disappear, and it is equally certain that in every instance a deleterious gas escapes in consequence, many times the bulk of the body which has wasted away.

The evidence which was adduced by the surveying-officer shows that the bill originated with the leading inhabitants, and that the feeling in its favour was a very general one. The inhabitants at large felt that moral advantages and more reve-



rential feelings in the interment of the dead would be likely to arise from the closing of the present burial-grounds. This view of the question was very properly much and forcibly dwelt upon. The surveying-officer states, in the report from which I have already quoted—

“From the evidence afforded, and the result of a local survey, the new cemetery seems to be well adapted for a place of interment, or as a park or ground for public recreation or exercise.”

There are three other sites besides the one in question which have been under the consideration of the committee, one on the Harborough and the other on the Humberstone road, neither of which belong to the corporation. The third is also their property, but it is situated in a different part of the town. Notice was given of an intended opposition in Parliament if land was taken for a cemetery on the Harborough road, and the present site was chosen because it appeared to possess advantages over the other sites. The natural beauty of the ground was very great, and, as it was the property of the corporation, there was no necessity for the outlay which would have been required had the site been purchased from a private individual. The distance from the town also was favourable, and there was not much probability of the ground being used for building sites, as on one side the erection of the County Lunatic Asylum had depreciated its value for building purposes, and on the other nothing except almshouses could be erected. The Board are aware that the above considerations, though important, do not constitute all that ought to be entertained in the choice of a cemetery. It is much to be regretted that the fitness of the soil for the purposes of interment should have been so entirely overlooked, or at least never entered upon, by the surveying officer in his Report to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests. The town-clerk in his evidence laid considerable emphasis on the fact that the unanimous feeling of the inhabitants was in favour of a new cemetery and of closing the existing burying-grounds. It is no doubt highly important that the feeling of a town in a matter so important as the establishment of a general place of interment should be as unanimous as possible; but fitness of soil for the purpose is one of the very first points that ought to be considered in the choice of a site, and we have the benefit of ample experience in this respect as to what soil is and what is not fit for the purposes of interment.

The following extract from a Report by Dr. Sutherland on the cemetery at Kensall Green shows how important, nay, how indispensable, a proper and suitable soil is.

*Extract from Report on Kensall Green Cemetery.*

"The soil is a stiff tenacious clay, altogether unsuited for the purpose of interment. The objections to such a soil have been long known and established from experience. Clay soils preserve an excessive degree of moisture around the corpse; they prevent that access of the atmosphere which is necessary to insure the natural resolution of the body into its elements. Not only is decomposition materially interfered with, and its period indefinitely lengthened, but that excess of moisture which a clay soil occasions tends to produce a transformation of the tissues of the body into a new fatty substance called *adipose*, which is of an enduring nature. We think there can be no doubt that in no grave dug in a wet clay soil can that series of processes, which all men recognise as constituting the return of the human frame to its kindred dust, take place, except after the lapse of a long series of years.

"The Right Hon. Lord Stowell states, in his decision in the case of *Gilbert v. Buzzard and Boyer*, that the occupation of a grave in a common cemetery must necessarily be for a limited period, because the process of nature will speedily dissolve them ('the buried bodies of deceased persons into an intimate mixture with the kindred dust, and their dust will help to furnish a place of repose for other occupants in succession'). The experience of not many years is required to furnish a sufficient certainty (as to the period of complete decomposition). 'The legal doctrine certainly is and has remained unaffected, that the common cemetery is not *res unius atatis* the property of one generation here deposited; but is likewise the common property of the living and of generations yet unborn, and is subject only to temporary appropriation.' There exists in the whole a right of succession, which can be lawfully obstructed only in a portion of it by public authority—that of the ecclesiastical magistrate, who gives occasionally an exclusive title to some portion of the succession of some families, or to an individual who has a fair claim to be favoured by such a distinction.

"This state of the law, which contemplated a natural resolution of the human body into dust, is opposed to any manner of burial which, in a public cemetery, delays the period of natural decay.

"As the term within which a grave can safely be reopened for another interment is intimately connected with the cost of burial, all soils which delay decomposition are expensive in use, and a wet clay soil is, perhaps, the most costly of all in this respect.

"As the great bulk of interments must always take place, not in proprietary but in common grounds, in which a renewal of the grave becomes absolutely necessary after the process of decomposition is complete, it must be obvious that a wet clay soil can never be so economical as one of those in which the time required is limited. Indeed, it is very questionable, considering the antiseptic nature of clays and their retentive power in regard to water, whether an interment in such a soil would not be tantamount to a perpetual closure, and should not be considered in this light.

"There are other great objections to the use of clay soils, on the score of their being inconsistent with public decency. The surface of a clay soil permits the water to flow freely over it; but whenever a grave is

dug and filled up in the manner that is customary with lighter soils, the surface-water flows into the looser clay in the grave, and converts it into a soft mass; and in some cases the water accumulates in the grave, in which it is retained by the impervious clay sides, as if it were in a cup. In such instances it not unfrequently occurs that the water has to be ladled out to prevent the unseemly spectacle of the immersion of the coffin in it.

"These objections have all to be obviated before a clay soil can be used for burial, and one manner of doing so is that commonly practised in Kensall-green Cemetery. When the coffin is deposited the clay is filled in, and men descend into the grave, and ram the clay hard down with wooden rammers, by a process of pounding technically called 'punning.' This has to be continued until the clay put into the grave is as hard as the natural surface, in order to prevent the influx of water.

"Any one who has once witnessed this process would not willingly permit its adoption at the filling up of the grave of any personal relative or friend. It is indecent in appearance, and is associated with work of a very different kind to that of the consignment of human remains to their last repose. The use of this process of 'punning' would be absolutely required in all interments in Kensall-green Cemetery, unless an expensive preparation of the surface was adopted to render it unnecessary.

"Another evil resulting from the use of clay ground is its liability to crack in dry weather, and to permit the escape of pent-up gaseous matters in a high state of putrefaction. When a suitable soil has been chosen, a grave dug to a proper depth, and only one body deposited in it, the gaseous elements evolved mix with and are retained by the pulverized earth with which the grave is filled. If a suitable vegetation be planted on the grave, the roots of the plants will descend and absorb the products of decomposition from the soil, which they convert into new and beautiful forms.

"This natural process cannot take place in a hard 'punned' clay soil, which acts by sealing up the grave hermetically, preventing the ingress of the atmospheric air, and retaining the noxious vapours until they escape by cracks in the clay to pollute the atmosphere, instead of affording nourishment to vegetation. A 'well-punned grave,' in a public cemetery, approaches closely in its results on the public health to burial in a catacomb, with greater danger; inasmuch as the number of graves in any cemetery must be vastly greater than the number of catacombs.

"We have already adverted to the enormous cost which has been incurred in attempts at draining Kensall Green cemetery. A sum of 240*l.* per acre may be said to exceed to a prodigious extent any outlay hitherto incurred for mere subsoil drainage.

"If the ground had been covered with the densest town population in the kingdom, whose houses were crowded to the greatest known extent,—as, for example, in Carlisle—the cost for the drainage, not only of the whole subsoil, but of every individual house on the 47 acres, would not exceed 7000*l.*

"The drainage of Birkenhead Park, which has three tiers of drains, only cost 20*l.* per acre. We think there can be no question that the



selection of a site for a cemetery involving any considerable outlay for drainage was in itself a mistake; but such an outlay as has been incurred in this case, and which has added so disproportionate an amount to the price per acre, can be designated by no other name than an absolute and unnecessary waste of capital, which the public should not be called upon, or even expected, to refund to the proprietors.

"It is obvious that there has been little or no beneficial effect produced on the soil, which is precisely the same as that of the neighbourhood where no drainage has been effected; and such is the retentive nature of the clay at the present time, that the highly objectionable process of 'punning' is still necessary, and is still practised.

"Water is still liable to accumulate in the clay if thrown loosely into the graves, and we have been informed that it actually accumulates to some depth in brick vaults, so that it may safely be stated that, whatever may have been the condition of the ground as to wetness before the drains were laid down, so far as any practical result is concerned in rendering the soil of that degree of dryness which all soils selected for cemetery purposes should possess, the money has been almost wholly thrown away."

I have made the following extracts from the Act which was obtained for the formation of the Leicester cemetery, as the most important of the sections of which the Act consists:—

"Sec. 8 of the bill gives the Town Council power to borrow at interest, on mortgage of the said cemetery on a bond, any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole the sum of 10,000*l*.

"Sec. 11 makes it lawful for the Council to provide or contract for hearses, carriages, horses, and such other matters and things as shall be found desirable for the convenience of the said cemetery, and the interment of the dead therein, or for the removal and conveyance of corpses thereto.

"Sec. 14 provides that one-half part of the land to be from time to time appropriated for a cemetery shall be set apart for interment of the dead according to the rites of the Established Church; and by clause 15 it is enacted that the other one-half part of the land shall be set apart for the interment of the dead otherwise than according to the rites and usages of the Established Church.

"Sec. 24 fixes the fee to be paid to the incumbents of parishes entitled to the fees for interment in duly consecrated grounds attached to each of the several parishes at the sum of 2*s*. 6*d*. for each corpse.

"Sec. 28 gives the Committee of Management power to award sums to be paid to clerks and sextons by way of compensation.

"By sec. 34 it is enacted, that from and after any cemetery established under the powers of the Act shall be fit for use, and the part which shall have been appropriated for the interment of the dead according to the rites of the Established Church of England shall have been consecrated, it shall be lawful for the Council of the said borough from time to time, with the *approval* of the General Board of Health, to make orders for suspending for a period not exceeding 20 years the interment of the dead within all or any of the burial-grounds within the said borough, except in vaults or brick graves, and subject to such

other exceptions and regulations, if any, as shall be expressed or contained in any order so to be made as aforesaid."

**CONCLUSIONS.**—I now beg leave to direct attention to such portions of the preceding evidence as appears to bear directly on the measure to which the town council of Leicester have solicited the consent of the Board.

It was stated by Mr. Flint, the architect to the corporation, that the total extent of vacant space in the various churchyards and burial-grounds amounted to 3879 square yards.

The data upon which the above calculations were made are not, however, sufficiently precise to enable me to say whether this statement is correct in all respects. I believe that it is so in the case of the churchyard of St. George's.

It has been already shown that, according to the registers, there have been deposited in one of the churchyards as many as 21 layers of human bodies. In the St. George's burial-ground, which was first opened in 1827, the number of interments is already equal to nearly two layers.

The earliest register in Leicester dates from 1558, or about 450 years after the consecration of the church to which it belongs; whilst those of the two most ancient churches do not commence till 550 years from their erection; so that the actual amount of human remains must be much larger than what it has been reckoned at.

With the exception of the statements made by the Rev. Mr. Vaughan, and Messrs. Buck and May, surgeons, no very conclusive evidence was given during the inquiry that persons resident in the vicinity of the burial-grounds had experienced any ill effects from them.

It will be seen, however, that the great mass of the evidence gives ample proof of the burial-grounds in general being much overcrowded. The only exception is in the case of St. George's, which was opened in 1827; but the soil is not only ill adapted but totally unfit for the purposes of interment, as it is a strong retentive clay and undrained.

The existing burial-grounds are situated for the most part in crowded and densely populated districts of the town, and it may be inferred that the comparatively small cost attendant upon the conveyance of dead bodies to them, instead of to the new cemetery, is the chief reason why they are still resorted to.

The idea of forming a cemetery was originally suggested by the Dissenters, in consequence of the want of space in the burial-grounds attached to their places of worship; but as it was evident to the inhabitants of all religious denominations that the establishment of a general place of interment would be a great benefit, it was resolved to establish one for the interment of all persons without distinction of religious belief.

The town council do not seem to have considered anything but the question of mere over-crowding in the existing burial-grounds; accordingly, when the inquiry was held previous to the Act for laying out the cemetery being obtained, remedial measures for correcting this evil only were suggested, and that very important part of the subject, the fitness or unfitness of the soil of the proposed site for the purposes of interment, was never entered upon or even alluded to.

I am strongly of opinion that, if proper advice had been taken on this point, the promoters of the bill would never have embarked the large sum which has been expended on a piece of ground that was not only to "supply the place of a park or public walk" (as dwelt upon by the then mayor, John Biggs, Esq.), but whose main object was to serve as a place of sepulture. The original estimate for laying out the whole area of 28 acres was 10,000*l.*; but, by the evidence of Mr. Stone, it was shown that the expense incurred in laying out 17 acres only amounted to 12,411*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, or about 730*l.* per acre, exclusive of any charge for the ground, which was the property of the corporation. I do not consider myself called upon to offer any opinion on the original estimate, or the money that has been actually expended. I may observe, however, that the buildings are appropriate in design, and appear to be well arranged and constructed, whilst the roads are well laid out, and are, I understand, permanently made.

The surveying officer observed in his Report "that the objects of the private Bill would not be more advantageously effected by the public measure." I cannot agree in this opinion, for the private Act merely gives the Board the right to forbid the closing of the existing burial-ground, whereas the Public Health Act requires that the consent of the Board must be had and obtained before any cemetery can be made or laid out at all.

In consequence of the town council neglecting to obtain competent advice whether the proposed site was adapted for its intended purpose, they have failed in obtaining one of the main ends for which the cemetery should have been formed. In my opinion they have also caused a formidable obstacle and objection to the issue of an unconditional certificate for closing the existing burial-grounds in favour of the new cemetery, at least in its present state.

Much emphasis was laid by the town clerk on the fact that the inhabitants were unanimously in favour of closing the existing burial-grounds. A similar opinion was also expressed at the former inquiry in favour of the establishment of a new cemetery; but in spite of this unanimity, my firm opinion is, that, before the new cemetery can become a proper place of burial, provision must be made for under-draining every grave,



and that the clay taken out should not be again replaced in a common grave, but that some other soil calculated to permit a more rapid waste of human remains should be substituted for the original clay.

Before concluding my remarks I must not omit to allude to the necessity of securing to the poorer classes some means of transporting their dead to the new cemetery without having to pay more in consequence than they now do for carrying them to the existing burial-grounds.

I have annexed to the Report plans and sections of the reception-house, which has just been completed under the directions of the officer of health.

I have placed in the Appendix the information supplied from the new cemetery as to the various fees and charges, and the returns made from the dissenting places of worship as to the average depth and number of graves and vaults, the quantity of unoccupied space in each ground, and the average duration of human remains.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. RANGER.

*The General Board of Health,  
Gwydyr House, Whitehall.*

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## A P P E N D I X.

### APPENDIX A.

**BOROUGH OF LEICESTER CEMETERY.** Established by Act of Parliament, 1848. Offices at the Cemetery, open daily from ten until four, Sundays excepted. The Cemetery is open to the public from ten in the morning until sunset, and on Sundays from two P.M. until sunset, upon application at the entrance.

#### PROPOSED TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES.

##### *Common Graves.*

	£.	s.	d.
Single interment, where the rental of the house does not exceed 3s. per week, in those portions of the different sections which are not coloured, including fees to clerk, sexton, and gravedigger, but exclusive of the fee to the minister . . .	0	6	0
Children under eight years of age, ditto . . . . .	0	4	0
Still-born child . . . . .	0	2	6
Common graves, where the rental of the house exceeds 3s. per week. Single interment, in the different sections, where not coloured, including clerk, sexton, and gravedigger, but exclusive of the fee of the minister . . .	0	10	0
Ditto for children under eight years of age . . . . .	0	6	0
Single interment, 9 feet deep, with the privilege of purchasing within 12 months from the date of interment, including all fees, except that of the minister . . . . .	0	15	0
Purchased graves not bricked, in parts of sections where coloured pink or green. Family graves, 9 feet deep, including fees of first interment, but exclusive of the fee of the minister in parts coloured pink . . . . .	3	3	0
Ditto 10 feet 3 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	3	13	6
Ditto 11 feet 6 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	4	4	0
Family graves, 9 feet deep, including fees of first interment, but exclusive of the fee of the minister in parts coloured green . . . . .	4	4	0
Ditto 10 feet 3 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	4	14	6
Ditto 11 feet 6 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	5	5	0
If in parts of sections coloured blue, extra . . . . .	1	1	0
Single interments, 9 feet deep, with the privilege of purchasing within 12 months from the date of interment . .	1	1	0
Ditto for children under eight years of age . . . . .	0	15	0

*Purchased Graves, bricked in parts of Sections coloured Green or Blue.*

	£.	s.	d.
Family grave, 9 feet deep, with fees of first interment, exclusive of the minister's fee . . . . .	10	10	0
Ditto 10 feet 3 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	11	11	0
Ditto 11 feet 6 inches ditto ditto . . . . .	12	12	0
If in parts of sections coloured blue, extra . . . . .	1	1	0
Ditto, section D, each grave extra . . . . .	2	2	0
Stone or slate covering each grave or single coffin, extra . . . . .	1	5	0

*Family Vaults, complete.*

To hold ten bodies, or 9 feet deep, in parts or sections coloured green or blue . . . . .	15	15	0
Ditto, twelve bodies, or 10 feet 3 inches ditto . . . . .	18	18	0
Ditto, fourteen bodies, or 11 feet 6 inches ditto . . . . .	22	10	0
If in section D an extra fee of . . . . .	3	3	0
Additional sizes, above 8 feet long and 6 feet wide . . . . .	<i>as per agreement.</i>		
Stone or slate covering, according to size . . . . .	<i>ditto.</i>		

N.B. These charges do not include the minister's fee, but include the other fees of the first interment.

*Public Vaults.*

Single interment, including all fees and charges in section D, except minister's fee . . . . .	5	5	0
Ditto, in all other sections, ditto . . . . .	3	3	0
Ditto for children under eight years of age . . . . .	<i>One half.</i>		

*Future Interments in purchased Graves and Family Vaults.*

In purchased graves . . . . .	1	1	0
Ditto bricked . . . . .	1	11	6
Ditto family vaults, according to the size, from . . . . .	2l. 2s.	to 3	3 0

N.B. These charges do not include the minister's fee, or the taking up or down of any stone, slab, or monument, or refixing the same, which must be specially agreed upon.

*Removals.*

Interment of coffin in purchased graves, unless the first interment . . . . .	1	1	0
Ditto in vault, unless the first interment . . . . .	2	2	0
Ditto of children under eight years of age . . . . .	<i>one half.</i>		

*Fees for the Privilege of setting up Monuments, &c. &c.*

Fee for the use of one panel of the exterior blank tracery in the exterior wall of cloisters . . . . .	10	10	0
Ditto ditto interior blank tracery in the east wall of cloisters . . . . .	15	15	0
Permission to set up tablets, brasses, or monuments, in the chapels, porches, cloisters, or west front, per superficial foot . . . . .	<i>as agreed.</i>		



	£.	s.	d.
Use of memorial window in the cloisters, each light . . .	10	10	0
Use of memorial window in the chapels ditto . . .	<i>as agreed.</i>		
Permission to set up tablets in the chapels . . .	<i>ditto.</i>		
Fee on head-stone of purchased graves in the open ground, from . . . . .	10s. 6d.	to	1 1 0
Fee on flat stones or monuments in purchased graves ditto, from . . . . .	1l. 1s.	to	3 3 0
Ditto on monuments, &c., above 36 feet superficial or 10 feet in height, in the open ground . . . . .	<i>as agreed.</i>		

*Extra Fees.*

On all interments not at the hours stated at the end of this table . . . . .	0	7	6
Maintaining graves, in turf only, per annum . . . . .	0	1	0
Ditto (if required) with or without flowers and shrubs, per annum, including procuring the same, from . 2s. 6d. to	0	5	0
Ditto in perpetuity, calculated at a twelve years' payment .	<i>as agreed.</i>		
Ditto monuments, vaults, &c., with flowers, shrubs, &c., ac- cording to size . . . . .	<i>ditto.</i>		
Iron bars for bricked graves or vaults to separate coffins .	<i>ditto.</i>		
For registry of every grant of right of burial or monument .	0	2	6

Stamp according to the consideration.

N.B. The hours of interment are at o'clock A.M., and from o'clock until four o'clock P.M.; and on Sundays from two o'clock until four o'clock P.M. only.

*Rules and Regulations.*

1. All orders are to be given, and fees and charges paid, at the Cemetery Office, before the ground is opened or the vault built.
2. Certificate of death to be produced and the name of the parish or district from which the body is removed, and all other information required to be stated at the time of paying the fees. The time fixed for a funeral must be the time when the procession is to be at the cemetery, and the time must be punctually observed, to prevent inconvenience and one funeral interfering with another.
3. Twenty-four hours' previous notice to be given for a common interment, and thirty-six hours' for purchased graves, before twelve o'clock at noon. If the interment be to take place on a Monday, notice to be given not later than on the preceding Friday. Three clear days' notice to be given if a vault or brick grave be required. If the requisite notice be not given, an extra charge for working at night to be paid before the ground is opened.
4. No vault or grave, in which the exclusive right of burial has been purchased, shall be opened without the owner's consent in writing.
5. No interment to be made in a vault unless the coffin be of lead or stone.
6. In common graves coffins of wood only to be used. Every coffin in a brick vault or grave to be covered by a Yorkshire stone or slate. Head-stones allowed, subject to the approval of the committee of management.

7. Gravestones (flat stones only) to be used over every vault or grave in which the exclusive right of burial is purchased, except in parts of sections coloured pink.

8. All monuments and gravestones to be erected within eighteen months after the first interment, or the grant of the property will become void, unless a licence for further time be obtained from the council. All foundations of monuments, removal or refixing same, and other work connected therewith, to be under the direction of the council, and the charges to be paid at the office before the work is commenced. Vaults and walled graves to be opened under the same directions and conditions.

9. Vaults and brick graves to be opened from the top, except by special agreement.

10. Copper cramps to be used in the erection of tablets.

11. All monuments, tablets, and gravestones, and all places of burial, to be kept in repair by the owners, unless a special agreement be made with the council.

12. No iron railing will be allowed without the consent of the council, or the cemetery committee of the council.

13. Before the erection of any tablet, monument, memorial, window, or gravestone, a drawing thereof, with the proposed inscription, shall be submitted for approval, and deposited in the office.

14. No brick or stone banks, gravestone, or monument to be made or erected except over vaults or graves in which the exclusive right of burial is purchased.

15. A plan of the cemetery, showing the situation of purchased graves and interments, is kept at the registrar's office, and may be seen without charge. The chapels and cloisters can be seen by an order from any member of the council, town clerk, or registrar, or any resident minister,—but on Sundays they are closed, except for funerals.

All other information to be obtained at the registrar's office at the cemetery.

The cemetery is effectually guarded both day and night, and the council forbid any gratuity being offered to any of their servants, under any pretence whatever.

The council reserve to themselves the right to make any alterations from time to time in the foregoing charges and regulations.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

*Leicester, July, 1849.*

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*Fees for Burials in Churchyards.*

Parish.	Clergyman's Fee.	Clerk's Fee.	Sexton's Fee, &c.
St. Margaret .	4s. with Exhortation 2s. 6d. without ditto	2s. grown up, with Exhortation 1s. when in grave- yard only	3s. common depth, and paying grave- digger out of it.
St. Mary . .	3s. with Exhortation 2s. without ditto	2s. with Exhortation 1s. without ditto	3s.
St. Martin . .	2s. with Exhortation 1s. for infants at pa- rish funerals	2s. with Exhortation 1s. for infants at pa- rish funerals	3s. 4s. extra depth
St. Nicholas .	2s. with Exhortation	5s. fee, as clerk and sexton	
All Saints . .	2s. 6d. with Exhort. 1s. parish funerals	2s. with Exhortation 1s. without ditto	3s.
St. George's .	4s. with Exhortation 2s. 6d. without ditto	2s. with Exhortation 1s. without ditto	3s. common depth, and paying grave- digger out of it.

*Fees for Burials in Chapels and Yards.*

Chapel.	Charge to Attendants.	To Strangers.	Whether any Variation.
Bond Street .	5s. for digging the grave	The same.	No
Great Meeting	5s. to sexton (2s. 6d. if under 21)	2l., and the same sexton's fees	The fee to the minis- ter is optional
Harvey Lane .	10s. the first time of opening the grave, 5s. afterwards; sexton's fee 5s.	1l. 1s. the first time of opening, 10s. subsequent ditto; sexton's fee 5s.	The charge to the poor occasionally varies according to circumstances
Gallowtree Gate	10s.	1l. 1s.	No
Hill Street .	7s. for adults 5s. for children	The same.	No

APPENDIX B.

*Baptist Chapel, Vine-street.*

*Hen. Aldwinkle*, the late sexton, furnished the following particulars with respect to this burial-ground:—The graves are made about 6 feet deep, but no coffins are placed nearer the surface than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet; neither the chapel nor burial-ground contain either vaults or brick graves. There are about 200 yards of unoccupied ground. As the burial-ground has only been in use since the erection of the chapel six years ago, no information could be given as to the length of time required for the decay of bodies or coffins. The latter are made of elm.

*Baptist Chapel, Archdeacon-lane.*

*Thos. Stevenson* furnished the following particulars of the Archdeacon-lane Baptist Chapel:—The new graves are dug about 10 feet deep, and bodies are never placed nearer the surface than 3 or 4 feet. The burial-ground contains about 6 or 8 brick graves, the chapel 1 vault; about one-fourth of the ground still remains unappropriated. No information could be given as to the length of time required for the entire waste of human bodies, or how long coffins take to decay. The latter are generally made of either oak or elm.

*Baptist Chapel, Dover-street.*

*Hen. Harvey* stated, with respect to the above burial-ground, that the new graves were dug about 9 feet deep, and no coffins placed within 4 feet of the surface. There are 4 brick graves, but no vaults, in the burial-ground. There are about 200 square yards of unoccupied ground. There is only 1 vault under the chapel. No information could be given as to the time required for the entire waste of dead bodies. The coffins are made generally of elm, and occasionally of oak; they last from 15 to 20 years, according to the depth at which they are placed.

*Meeting-house of the Society of Friends, Friars-road.*

The graves are dug about 8 feet deep, and contain only 1 body each. Neither the meeting-house nor burial-ground contains either vaults or brick graves. There are about 50 yards of maiden ground, 100 yards in which no interments have taken place during the last 50 years, and 150 in which there have been none during the last 40 years. There have only been about 50 interments in this burial-ground during the last-mentioned period. No information could be furnished as to the entire waste of bodies or the length of time that the coffins, which are made of oak, last.

*St. Peter's-lane Chapel.*

*Mr. Hen. Beaumont* furnished the following information with regard to this burial-ground:—The graves for adults are made 7 and 8, and for children 5 feet in depth. There are 6 brick graves and 2 vaults in the burial-ground, and 3 under the chapel. There is a small space of unoccupied ground still remaining. About 10 years is required for the entire waste of bodies, and 10 or 12 for the decay of the coffins, which are made of oak or elm.

*Baptist Chapel, Harvey-lane.*

The graves in this burial-ground are made about 9 feet



deep; coffins are seldom placed more than 6 feet, and never nearer than within 4 feet of the surface. There are, as nearly as can be ascertained, 8 brick graves and 2 vaults in the burial-ground, which is all occupied. There are 3 brick graves under the chapel, which have not been used for the last 15 years, except one, which was reopened about three years since. The entire waste of bodies may take from 15 to 25 years, though it varies according to circumstances, such as the material of the coffin, the nature of the ground, &c.; coffins will decay in from 15 to 25 years, though they sometimes take a considerably longer period; as in the last case, the time varies according to circumstances. The poor and middle classes use elm coffins generally, the wealthier oak or lead.

*Primitive Methodist Chapel, Hill-street.*

The following particulars connected with this burial-ground were furnished by *Thos. Breedon*:—The depth of the graves varies from 6 to 8 feet, and the coffins are laid to within  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet of the surface. There are about 6 brick graves in the burial-ground. There are no vaults under the chapel, but one is built under the school-room connected with it. The burial-ground contains about 200 square yards of unoccupied ground. Dead bodies decay much sooner in dry than in wet ground. Elm coffins last from 10 to 15 years; oak ones longer.

*Providence Chapel, Newark-street.*

The interments here have been very few indeed. No answer could be given to the series of questions put by me, as no account of any kind relating to the bodies buried in the chapel-yard seems to have been kept.

*The Primitive Methodist Chapel, George-street.*

The depth of the graves is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and only one body is buried in each. There are 2 brick graves now in use. There are no vaults, either under the chapel or in the burial-ground, which contains no unoccupied ground. No information could be afforded as to the length of time required for the decay of dead bodies or the decay of their coffins. Elm is the material employed for the coffins.

*Primitive Methodist Chapel, Alexander-street.*

The depth of the graves is 5 feet 6 inches, and bodies are deposited to within 4 feet of the surface. There is no unoccupied space in the burial-ground, in which there are neither vaults nor brick graves, nor does the chapel itself contain any vaults. Dead bodies are supposed to require from 10 to 50

years before they become completely decayed. The coffins, which are built of either oak or elm, last about 10 years.

*Unitarian Chapel, East Bond-street.*

The following particulars were furnished by Mr. J. Whetstone, one of the trustees of the chapel:—The graves are from 6 to 9 feet. The sexton, who has been in his present situation seven years, does not remember any coffin ever being placed nearer the surface than 5 feet. The burial-ground contains about 20 brick graves and 4 vaults, and from 130 to 140 square yards of unoccupied space. There are no vaults under the chapel. From 15 to 30 years may be assigned as the probably required time for the decay of a dead body; but if the term “entire waste” is intended to imply the complete decomposition of the bones, a very much longer period would be necessary. If the coffin be made of elm it will decay in 10 years, or if oak, which is the wood chiefly used, 40 or 50 years will elapse before it is entirely destroyed.

*Independent Chapel, Bond-street.*

Joseph Swain supplied the following information with regard to the condition of the Bond-street burial-ground:—The new graves are made 9 feet deep, but the coffins are laid to within 5 feet of the surface. There are about 20 brick graves and 6 vaults in the burial-ground, which contains very little unoccupied space. There is one vault under the chapel. If the dead bodies are those of adults, about 14 years are required for their entire waste. The coffins last from 7 to 20 years, and are made of elm and oak, but principally of the former.

*Independent Chapel, Gallowtree-gate.*

The new graves are dug 9 feet deep, and bodies are placed in them to within 4 feet of the surface. In the burial-ground there are 10 brick graves now in use, and 2 vaults. The quantity of unoccupied ground is about 240 yards. No answer could be given as to the number of years required for the entire waste of bodies, nor had there been any opportunity of testing the length of time that coffins last. Elm and oak are the materials chiefly used in their construction. The average number of interments in the burial-ground of Gallowtree-gate chapel during the last 12 years has been 8; none are permitted except those of persons belonging to the congregation or the relations of those now interred. The managers of the Gallowtree-gate chapel see no reason why the ground should be closed or the mode of burial restricted. According to the present rate of interment, it would require nearly 100 years to fill the ground.



*Roman Catholic Chapel, Wellington-street.*

New graves are no longer dug in the burial-ground of this chapel. The bodies are placed to within 4 or 5 feet of the surface. The burial-ground contains no vaults or brick graves. There are 1 vault and 3 brick graves under the chapel. From 5 to 6 years is required for the entire waste of human bodies. The coffins last about three years, and are sometimes made of oak, but oftener of elm.

